

retained in or at a receiving device, which is permeable to the nutrient medium, and the nutrient medium is passed through the receiving device.

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to place the above-identified application in more proper format under United States practice.

By the present Preliminary Amendment claims 1-16 are cancelled and new claims 17-32 are presented for examination. New claims 17-32 are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, including claims 1-16, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter. No differences between new claims 17-32 and cancelled claims 1-16 are believed to narrow the scope of claims 17-32 in any aspect.

A new Abstract believed to be in more proper under United States practice is also submitted herein.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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218090US-6 PCT

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Serial No:

10/030,697

Amendment Filed on:

4-10-2002

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled).

Claims 17-32 (New).

IN THE ABSTRACT

Abstract (New).